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Washington, DC - Today, Congressman Bruce Braley (IA-01), Congressman Dave Loebsack (IA-02), and Congressman Leonard Boswell (IA-03) announced that as a result of a letter they sent to Steve Preston, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), \$85 million in held-up disaster aid is being immediately released. This funding will be used for much needed Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to support local efforts to recover and rebuild from the devastating floods.

"The Floods of 2008 caused unprecedented damage in Iowa, and it is essential that Iowans receive disaster relief as quickly as possible," Congressman Braley said. "Iowa deserves funding without bureaucratic delay, and I'm pleased that communities affected by the floods will now receive this much needed infusion of funds. I will keep working each day to ensure that Iowans have the resources they need to continue moving down the long road to recovery."

"Communities, residents, and businesses affected by the floods need assistance; this critical disaster relief should never have been withheld by the administration," noted Congressman Loebsack. "We urged the Secretary of HUD to immediately release this funding so further assistance can quickly be distributed to provide individuals and businesses with the security to rebuild and communities with the support necessary to recover from this disaster."

"In our meeting with the Speaker last week, the first thing I mentioned was the absolute necessity that these CDBG funds be released as quickly as possible," Congressman Boswell

added. "With some nudging from the Iowa delegation and House appropriators, I'm pleased that the Administration realized that Iowa and other states need the disaster assistance now, not tomorrow."

On June 19th of this year, the House passed \$2.65 billion in disaster assistance for the Midwestern states affected by the record floods. A portion of this funding was allocated to be used for Community Development Block Grants. However, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has failed to release this funding to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which in turn has prevented it from helping Iowans affected by the floods.

In response to this recent discovery, Congressmen Loebsack, Boswell, and Braley jointly wrote a letter to the Secretary of HUD requesting that these funds be immediately released to Iowa. Today, \$85 million in Community Development Block Grants is being released from HUD directly to Iowa.

This \$85 million in Community Development Block Grants can be used to support state and local government-directed neighborhood revitalization, housing rehabilitation, and economic development activities. Eligible CDBG activities include historic preservation; property demolition, site preparation and disposition; economic development and job creation, including assistance to for-profit entities and establishment of revolving loan funds; housing assistance, including rehabilitation loans and grants; public service activities, including job counseling and employment training; and assistance to not-for-profit entities, including community development corporations and faith-based institutions.